S-15-2/69

Conspiracy Appeal Hearing Is Set May 26

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The appeal of seven men convicted of conspiracy in the 1964 slaying of three civil rights workers at Philadelphia is set for May 26 at Atlanta, federal court sources reported here.

The hearings were scheduled by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals after the seven appealed their district court convictions of 1967.

The government originally charged 18 men took part in a Ku Klux Klan plot to assassinate three civil rights workers, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman of New York and Negro James Chaney of Meridian.

The three disappeared on a trip to investigate the burning of a Negro church in Neshoba County and 44 days later their bodies were recovered from a farm pond dam near Philadelphia.

Convicted in the case were Sam H. Bowers Jr. of Laurel, former Imperial Wizard of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan; Cecil Ray Price, former Neshoba County Chief deputy sheriff; Alton Wayne Roberts of Meridian, a former nightclub bouncer; Billy Wayne Posey of Philadelphia, a service station operator; Jimmy Arledge of Philadelphia, a truck driver, Jimmie Snowden of Meridian, a laundry truck driver, and Horace Doyle Barnette, formerly of Meridian and now a north Louisiana truck driver.

One of the points expected to come up in the hearing was a slip of the tongue by government attorney John Doar. Doar in reading certain documents, read parts that had been blanked out by the court. The documents were a confession used by the government in the trial.